

Swansea Bay University Health Board

Unconfirmed

Minutes of a Meeting of the Health Board

held on 29th June 2023 at 10.45am in the Millennium Room, HQ (livestream via YouTube)

Present

Emma Woollett	Chair
Andrew Griffiths	Associate Board Member
Anne-Louise Ferguson	Independent Member
Darren Griffiths	Director of Finance and Performance
Debbie Eyitayo	Director of Workforce and OD
Jean Church	Independent Member
Keith Reid	Director of Public Health
Nerissa Vaughan	Interim Director of Strategy
Nicola Matthews	Independent Member
Nuria Zolle	Independent Member
Pat Price	Independent Member

In Attendance:

Alison Clarke	Deputy Director of Therapies and Health Science
Anjula Mehta	Deputy Medical Director
Deb Lewis	Chief Operating Officer
Hazel Lloyd	Director of Corporate Governance
Matt John	Director of Digital
Richard Thomas	Director of Insight, Communications and Engagement
Liz Stauber	Head of Corporate Governance

Minute No.		Action
118/23	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
	The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Mark Hackett, Chief Executive, Steve Spill, Vice-Chair, Christine Morrell, Director of Therapies and Health Science, Gareth Howells, Director of Nursing and Patient Experience, Richard Evans, Executive Medical Director, Tom Crick, Independent Member, Jackie Davies, Independent Member, Keith Lloyd, Independent Member and Reena Owen, Independent Member.	
119/23	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	There were no declarations of interest.	

120/23	<p>PROPOSAL TO PROCEED WITH THE ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICE CHANGE AS OUTLINED IN THE ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENT</p>	
	<p>A report seeking approval of the proposal to proceed with the orthopaedic service change as outlined in the engagement document was received.</p> <p>In introducing the report, Richard Thomas highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The transfer of the orthopaedic lists from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board was part of Swansea Bay’s plans to establish centres of excellence; - It would address long waits for Swansea Bay residents and establish equity in treatment availability across board’s area; - There were some issues raised around transport, for which there were plans in development, however these were from patients based in Swansea, who would not be affected by the changes proposed in the engagement document; - Mitigations were in place to ensure clinical assessments for any patients transferring from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board as well as access to prehabilitation and pain management services would be equitable and efficient; - Communications would be issued to those affected by the change to set out expected wait times. <p>In discussing the report, the following points were raised:</p> <p>Nuria Zolle referenced the commitment to no patient waiting more than two years for treatment by April 2024 and queried if this was achievable. Deb Lewis advised that plans were in development to manage delivery but it was dependent on funding from Welsh Government for the orthopaedic unit at Neath Port Talbot Hospital, for which confirmation was still awaited. This was pivotal to the health board delivering its target and receiving the money would mean that its patients would have equitable access to service in-line with the rest of Wales.</p> <p>Nuria Zolle sought assurance that the patients transferring in would be treated in turn. Deb Lewis commented that orthopaedics was most advanced of the health board’s services in terms of reviewing its waiting lists to ensure patients were on the right ones, but this needed to be extended to Swansea Bay residents on other health boards’ waiting lists. She provided assurance that the patients transferring across would be added to the waiting list in chronological order and then prioritised based on clinical need.</p>	

Nuria Zolle stated that it was disappointing to see the critical comments from patients around pain management and queried what was being done for patients. Anjula Mehta advised that not only was it important that patients knew their position on the waiting list but also the services available as part of pre-habilitation. There was a national three 'Ps' campaign which focussed on promote, prevent and prepare to help patients to prepare through staying active and healthier while waiting, which led to better outcomes. She added that there was also an exercise and lifestyle programme in place for orthopaedics and patients on this pathway would be signposted to this service. In addition, GPs could now see where their patients were on the waiting list and this would also be available to the patients themselves in due course through the Patient Portal.

Nuria Zolle referenced the transport issues raised and queried what could be done to address these. Richard Thomas responded that the transport issues had been raised by those spoken to at the Quadrant in Swansea who would not necessarily be affected by the transfer of services and for whom it would be closer to go to Neath Port Talbot Hospital rather than Bridgend. However, it remained the case that there were transport issues generally for some patients to access health board sites. Emma Woollett concurred, adding that the health board's sustainable travel strategy was to be received by the board in July 2023 would be a starting point as it would consider public transport issues, but work would be needed more widely on a comprehensive travel plan in general.

Action: consideration to be given to a report to the board on wider public transport access to hospitals and how this might be improved

Matt John advised that work had been undertaken with Northumberland University over the last 12 months around the dataset for orthopaedics and whether an artificial intelligence algorithm could be applied to cases to determine if surgery was actually necessary and if so, whether their condition was complex enough for Morriston Hospital or if they could be treated at Neath Port Talbot Hospital. Orthopaedic clinicians were now undertaking validation exercises of the findings.

Anne-Louise Ferguson commented that 100 responses had been received and queried how this compared with the number of people on the waiting list due to transfer to Swansea Bay. She also asked if a validation exercise would be undertaken of these before they were added to a Swansea Bay waiting list to determine if they required treatment. Deb Lewis responded that as at end of May 2023, there were 880 patients on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board waiting list for treatment and 400 waiting for a new outpatient appointment. This number would likely be reduced by the time transfer

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occurred as some would have already been treated. There would be a new central validation team in place from September 2023 and would continue to communicate with patients to determine if their circumstances had changed. She added that there were currently around 100 Swansea Bay waiting list patients who had been waiting longer than those transferring in but all patients being added to the Swansea Bay lists would be assessed to ensure they were on the list for the right treatment and right consultant for their needs. Richard Thomas advised that the 100 responses were in addition to the telephone discussions with 87 individuals as well as drop-in sessions at community venues, such as supermarkets and shopping centres. Anne-Louise Ferguson responded that this meant that a significant number of those on the transferring lists had not engaged and would need to be advised of the outcome of the engagement. While it was a positive story, there was a risk of some adverse comments by patients if their waiting time was increased by the change.

Andrew Griffiths queried if the patients affected by the transfer all lived in a similar area as this would make communications easier. Deb Lewis agreed, adding that they were all Neath residents, mostly on the border with Bridgend.

Nerissa Vaughan asked how assured the health board could be that the data from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board was accurate. Deb Lewis responded the health board had yet to see the full patient list and only aggregate figures had been received to date. Until the full list was received, it was unknown what speciality each patient was under and the type of treatment they were waiting for. A meeting was taking place that evening between the clinical leads and chief operating officers for both organisations to work through the details. Matt John stated that there could be a degree of confidence as the information was held in the same patient administration system as used by Swansea Bay.

Alison Clarke queried if there were plans in place to provide feedback to those who had responded to the engagement to help reduce any fears and demonstrate that their concerns had been listened to. Richard Thomas advised that those on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board lists would be contacted directly as their contact information was held but there would be wider general communications to publicise the outcome of the engagement, both internally and externally. Emma Woollett responded that this was pleasing to hear and sought confirmation that this would be carried out in line with Llais (formerly the community health council) guidance. Richard Thomas confirmed that it would be and Llais had been involved in the process throughout.

Darren Griffiths provided assurance that provisions had been included in the financial plan to cover the additional patients. He also reminded the

	<p>board that a business case was being considered by Welsh Government to fund the orthopaedics centre at Neath Port Talbot Hospital, for which a response was expected imminently.</p> <p>Emma Woollett stated that this was a good news story for the board with a positive outcome as any Swansea Bay resident waiting more than two years, regardless of which of the two health boards' waiting list they were currently on, would receive their treatment by April 2024. The key would be sustaining this provision for other patients.</p>	
Resolved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report be noted; - The proposal to proceed with the service change proposal as outlined in the engagement document be approved. - Further work on the mitigations to be completed as outlined be approved. - Report be considered on access to hospitals and options to improve, to include sustainable travel and improved public transport 	NV
121/23	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There was no other business and the meeting was closed.	
122/23	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 27th July 2023 .	

Meeting closed: 11.45am